

## *Learning Through a Sense of Place*

### **Port Townsend School District is a Title 1 District**

Salish Coast Elementary & Blue Heron Middle School participate in the Title 1 Program. Title 1, Part A is part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Its goal is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards.

Our Title 1 schools qualify for federal grant money which we use for additional staffing, parent involvement, staff development, and extended school day opportunities to help us meet that goal. This update is intended to provide you with important information about this law and your child's education.

Please contact the principal if you would like more information about Title 1 activities or parent participate at your child's school

### **District and School Report Card Information**

Are you interesting in knowing how your child's school did on state assessments? How different groups of children performed compared to other schools? You can find out by going to <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>

The Report Card contains information about test results as well as other statistics about the school. To find results for Port Townsend Public Schools, use the drop down menu options provided to see results for your child's school or for Port Townsend School District.

### **Right to Request Teacher Qualifications**

All parents and guardians have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s) or instructional paraeducators. If you request this information, the district will provide you with the following:

- Whether the teacher has met Washington teacher certification requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under a emergency or other provisional status for which Washington qualifications or certification has been waived;
- The college major of the teacher and any graduate degree or certificate; and
- Whether your child is receiving Title 1 services from paraprofessionals, and if so, whether these paraprofessionals meet state/federal requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

If you would like to request this information, please contact Shelby MacMeekin at (360) 379-4605

### **Citizen Complaints**

If you believe that the law that applies to federal programs like Title 1 has been violated, you have the right to file a complaint. First contact your child's school. If you can't reach a solution, you can file a Citizen Complaint through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/titlei/familyinvolvement/pubdocs/handoutcitizencomplaintscholdistrictesdsubgrantee.pdf>

# District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The district will do the following to promote parent and family engagement:

- A. The district will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the district's Title 1 plan. The district will annually coordinate with building administrators of students served in Title 1 programs to conduct parent surveys and schedule meetings or parent steering committees for the purpose of reviewing and revising this policy.
- B. The district will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the district in the planning and implementing of effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- C. The district will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all Title 1 schools. At that meeting, the following will be identified:
  1. Barriers to greater participation by parents in Title 1 activities;
  2. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
  3. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

The district will use the findings from the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise this policy if necessary. The district will facilitate removing barriers to parental involvement by doing the following:

1. Annually seek input from parents via surveys to determine strengths and weaknesses of the district's outreach efforts
  2. Schedule meetings at different times of the day, including evenings, when conducting the review.
  3. Conduct parent meetings in conjunction with other programs.
- D. The district will involve parents of the Title 1 student in decisions about how to use the Title 1 funds reserved for parent and family engagement are spent. The district must use Title 1 funds reserved for parent and family engagement for at least one of the reasons specified in 20 U.S.C. 6318(a)(3)(D).
  - E. The district and each of the schools within the district providing Title 1 services will do the following to support a partnership among schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement:
    1. Provide assistance to parents of Title 1 students, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics:
      - a) Washington's challenging academic standards;
      - b) State and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments;
      - c) The requirements of Title 1;
      - d) How to monitor their child's progress; and
      - e) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children
    2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. Parents may be provided the opportunity to meet with the classroom and Title 1, Part A teachers to discuss their child's progress.
    3. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and how to do the following:
      - a) Reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners;
      - b) Implement and coordinate parent programs; and
      - c) Build ties between parents and the school.
    4. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with similar strategies used under other programs, such as:
      1. Head Start
      2. Learning Assistance Program
      3. Special Education; and
      4. State-operated preschool programs.
    5. Ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children. The information will be provided in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The sharing of this information will include both digital and written communication, including school bulletins, individual invitations, email communication, and invitations via the school website.

## Please share your thoughts!

Shelby MacMeekin (360) 379-4535

email: [smacmeekin@ptschools.org](mailto:smacmeekin@ptschools.org)

Port Townsend School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Laurie McGinnis, Title IX

Amy Khile, Civil Rights Compliance;  
Shelby MacMeekin, 504 Coordinator & ADA Compliance